

LIVE NEWS AND FRESH GOSSIP FROM THE CITIES AND TOWNS OF VIRGINIA

PREACHED SERMON ON THE SWEAT BOX

Rev. T. Benton Hill, of Newport News, Starts Vigorous Crusade

ABOLITION OF THE CHAINGANG

This Will Be the Object of the Movement Set Going by Treatment Received by J. H. Hahn at the Hands of Commissioner.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

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PHONE ORDERS TO FREDERICKSBURG

Great Value of New Line Down the Rappahannock Valley.

LOCAL OPTION COMPROMISE

Saloon Keepers and Temperance Forces in Caroline Agree That Saloon Men May Continue Business Until Expiration of License.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., Dec. 29.—

The Upper Rappahannock telephone line from Tappahannock to this city has been completed, and connection made in the office of the Rappahannock, Fredericksburg and Piedmont Telephone Company, which furnishes the local service here.

At Tappahannock this line gives communication to a large number of other points, putting the entire south side of the Rappahannock River in telephonic touch with this city. The line will be of great service to the people in the section through which it runs and a great advantage to Fredericksburg. Though the line has just been completed, several merchants here have already received orders for goods over the telephone to be shipped by steamer.

The local option fight in Caroline county has become so warm that the liquor dealers of that county, through their attorney, Richard Moncrie, presented to the advocates of local option a proposition to the effect that if the liquor dealers are allowed to continue the sale of liquor until the expiration of their present licenses, which will be on April 30th, they will make no fight against local option. The proposition, signed by the liquor dealers, was accepted and signed by Rev. Andrew Broadbent in behalf of the temperance people.

FOR ROSEVELT.

Captain Peter Street, a well known fisherman of Stafford county, who makes a specialty of curing and smoking Potomac herrings, has sent to President Theodore Roosevelt a box of his finest selected smoked herrings for the President's New Year's breakfast.

More coal has arrived here at a critical time. Messrs. J. L. Leitch & Co., a specialty of curing and smoking Potomac herrings, has sent to President Theodore Roosevelt a box of his finest selected smoked herrings for the President's New Year's breakfast.

The work of having new eas pipes on the streets of the city preparatory to paving the same which was interfered with by the Christmas holidays, was resumed today by a large force of hands, and the work will be steadily pushed until completed.

AN AGED COUPLE.

Mr. and Mrs. George S. Ayer, of Fauquier, have moved to Loudoun county to reside. This couple has been married for over sixty years. Mr. Ayer is eighty-six years old and Mrs. Ayer is eighty-three. They are both well preserved, considering their advanced ages. Mr. Ayer is the owner of an antique desk which he purchased at a sale at Mt. Vernon, where it was used by George Washington. He has refused \$1,000 for the desk.

Congressman John F. Rixey, of Culpeper county, is one of the most progressive farmers of the State. Besides his home property, which is in a high state of cultivation, he has several farms on the Upper Rappahannock, which were very much run down before he came. He has converted them into attractive and productive places on which large crops of corn and hay are now raised each season and fine herds of cattle grazed.

CHATHAM GAYETY

Several Delightful Whist Entertainments During the Holidays.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

CHATHAM, VA., December 29.—

Messdames N. E. Clement and S. M. Cole, very delightfully entertained at whist Friday night. Several tables were filled, and the evening was very enjoyable throughout. The first prize, which was a very handsome medal picture, was won by Miss Edna Hunt, while the booby was taken by Miss Penn, of Roanoke. Saturday afternoon the devotees were entertained by Miss Iola Ragdale, at Hotel Chatham.

The young people were given a very enjoyable hop at the Chatham Episcopal Institute Saturday night, which will be repeated Tuesday night.

Mrs. S. K. Collier, Sr., will entertain the lovers of whist Monday night.

Miss Mattie Flipp gave a very pleasant dance at her home, near Dry Fork, Monday night. Good number was present, and the festivities were kept up until a late hour.

Mrs. R. E. L. Ayler has been very sick at her home here for several days.

The week has been one of gayety from the beginning. It will be kept up through the holidays.

FOUND, BUT DYING

W. J. Houck, of Pocahontas, who disappeared in Indiana.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

POCAHONTAS, VA., Dec. 29.—

William J. Houck, the young man from near Pocahontas who mysteriously disappeared from his boarding house at Crawfordville, Ind., early in the fall, has been heard from, though under circumstances

which bring much grief to his family near here.

It seems that William went to Lawrence, Ind., after leaving Crawfordville and found employment there. Not a trace of him was ever found until this week a letter came stating that William was dangerously ill. His brother John was preparing to take the train to go to his bedside when a telegram came advising of his death.

His body will be brought to Pocahontas for burial. The cause of his death is unknown as yet.

INSURANCE RATES

Complaint From the Southwest that They Have Been Raised.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

TADWELL, VA., Dec. 29.—

Recently two representatives of fire insurance companies were here and fixed a schedule, whereby rates were increased from 25 to 50 per cent. on all risks.

The people here do not understand the reason for this increase, unless it is due to the repeal of the "Wharton Law," and they will urge on the General Assembly to re-enact this law at the present session.

There was no demand from the insured for its repeal and it is thought here that this is the first step towards reestablishing the Southwestern Tawiff Association in the State. The Legislature will commend itself to the people if it will take speedy steps to put this law back in force. Several other towns in this section have been visited by these agents and have met the same fate.

Sheriff James Bandy still lies in a critical condition at the Central Hotel. He is growing weaker hourly and his death is looked for any day.

WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL

The Feature of the Evening was the Singing of the Richmond Quartette.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

IRWING, VA., Dec. 29.—

The entertainment held under the auspices of the Ladies Aid Society, connected with the church, was one of the most successful events of the season. While the attendance was not large, there was cleared more than thirty dollars. The feature of the evening was the performance given by the Old-Fellows' Quartette of Richmond, comprising Messrs. L. H. Phillips, James W. J. Cherry, and B. C. Thomas. To these gentlemen the success of the evening is due, for their singing and playing was the attraction. Mr. Cherry's impersonation took the house, and he was frequently cheered. Miss Sallie N. Brooking also contributed a few recitations, which were well received.

Mrs. Wilson is ill at the home of her son-in-law, Rev. N. B. Campbell, of Baltimore.

Mrs. Dayton Brookings, Miss Marie Noel and Mr. Westwood Norvell are guests of the family of Hon. W. B. W. Brookings, of Baltimore.

MAJOR BOLTON PRESIDENT

He Once Operated All the Street Railways in Richmond.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., Dec. 29.—

Major Channing M. Bolton, of the Southern Railway, is president of the Charlottesville City and Suburban Railway. Major Bolton is a well known street railway man. At one time he operated the whole of the Richmond street railway system and was afterward chief engineer of the Southern Railway.

Watch night services will be held at Washington Street Church Wednesday night.